23 August and 119 in the week ending 30 August. Thereafter, numbers of all species declined. By the week ending 18 October, the 1987 cumulative total was 2867, including 831 *E. balteatus*, making it the eighth best year for hoverflies, only average, but by no means the disastrous year that it appeared to be up to the beginning of August.

Reference

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Notes and Observations

HYPENA OBSITALIS HBN. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE), THE BLOXWORTH SNOUT, IN CORNWALL – On the morning of 8th November 1987 I disturbed a small moth that was resting near my back door. Its flight was slow and "plume-like", and the patterned wings and noticable palps clearly suggested an unusual snout. On capture it proved to be a male *obsitalis,* probably around the tenth British specimen outside of the Channel Islands, where it is resident. Running an m.v. light subsequently drew a blank.

Readers may speculate on the suspense involved on seeing a rare moth, and knowing that one's net is in the boot of the car (locked), parked in the garage (also locked) ! F. H. SMITH, Turnstones, Perrancoombe, Perranporth, Cornwall.

THE EFFECT OF STORM DAMAGE ON CATOCALA SPECIES (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN THE NEW FOREST – the effects of the great storm of 15th October on insect populations will take some time to assess. The New Forest area is famous as a locality for the *Catocala* species *sponsa* and *promissa,* insects which probably lay their overwintering eggs on the upper branches of oak trees.

I visited two principal sites on 5th November : Lady Cross has relatively little damage, with only one major oak down, although numerous branches have been torn from the trunks. The central area of Frame Heath has been devastated with several of the old "sugar" trees down and torn limbs and branches everywhere. How many *Catocala* larvae will fail to find food on hatching next year remains to be seen. E. H. WILD, 7 Abbots Close, Highcliffe, Dorset.